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RR RUEHAG RUEHROV  
DE RUEHTC #0829 2761333  
ZNY CCCCC ZZH  
R 021333Z OCT 08  
FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 2041  
INFO RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE  
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 1820  
RUEHSI/AMEMBASSY TBILISI 0165

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 000829

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 09/30/2018  
TAGS: EAID EFIN PREL GG NL  
SUBJECT: NETHERLANDS/GEORGIA: DUTCH ASSISTANCE

REF: SECSTATE 100093

Classified By: Political Officer Eric Falls for reasons 1.5(b,d)

(C) The Dutch expect to announce at least 7.5 million euros in support for Georgia by the October 22 donors conference in Brussels. Poloff and Econoff delivered reftel points to contacts at the MFA on September 26. Cees Roels, MFA Deputy Director for Southeast and Eastern Europe, responded October 1 that Minister for Development Koenders has not approved a final figure. However, Roels expects Koenders to approve 5 million euros in funding to Georgia and the surrounding region through the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development's "Early Transition Countries" program. In addition, the Dutch will provide 2.5 million euros in direct budget support to Georgia, in coordination with the IMF. Hugo Klijn, MFA Director for Eastern Europe and Central Asia, said Koenders could approve additional funding. The Dutch asked that these figures be kept confidential for now, but they will likely make a public announcement ahead of the donors conference.

Culbertson